



## NEWS RELEASE

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### ***11 MINORITY FIRMS TO BE HONORED DURING 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF MED WEEK***

**WASHINGTON** – Eleven outstanding minority-owned businesses that hail from various parts of the country will receive the U.S. Small Business Administration's prestigious Minority Small Business Persons of the Year awards for their superior business achievements.

These awards will be presented during the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the National Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week conference on September 24-27 in Washington, D.C. MED Week is cosponsored by the SBA and held in conjunction with the Minority Business Development Agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The award winners have businesses ranging from environmental consulting to engineering services and construction (see page 2 for a complete list).

One of the 11 regional winners will be named the National Minority Small Business Persons of the Year during the MED Week conference. Other national awards to be announced during the conference include the SBA Administrator's Leadership award and the 8(a) Graduate Firm of the Year award.

President Bush has declared the week of September 23 as MED Week. In his proclamation, the President urged all Americans to join together in honoring minority entrepreneurs across the country in appropriate observances.

**"The 20<sup>th</sup> National MED Week Conference provides a unique forum to address the major issues affecting the growth and development of minority businesses,"** SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto said. **"It is essential that we recognize and honor minorities and women who have demonstrated leadership and outstanding accomplishments through their hard work and determination."**

The MED Week Conference will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The theme is *"Strategies for Growth in the American Economy, Part II: The Entrepreneurial Economy."* Conference topics include: a special presentation by Robert Putnam, author of *Bowling Alone*, and financial strategies for the minority marketplace. Senior staff from the Bush Administration including Andrew Card, Chief-of-Staff for the President will be present each morning for the *Meet Your White House* breakfast sessions. The Honorable Paul O'Neill, Secretary of Treasury and the Honorable Nicholas E. Calio, assistant to the President for legislative affairs will

participate in the Minority Business Enterprise Policy Roundtable panel moderated by Tony Brown of *Tony Brown's Journal* to discuss the Bush Administration's economic policy initiatives and the strategic impact on minority business.

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## **02-48/Page Two**

The conference will also provide opportunities to network at the MED Week 2002 Business Expo as well as forums to discuss innovative technologies, Homeland Security and SBA's programs and services. There also will be award ceremonies to honor minority entrepreneurs, minority business advocates and leaders in the corporate community.

The 11 recipients of the Regional Minority Small Business Persons of the Year awards are expected to attend the National MED Week conference to be honored during the awards gala on the evening of September 27th. The honorees will be recognized for their dedication and commitment to excellence.

The 11 Regional Minority Small Business Persons of the Year are:

### **REGION I**

Mr. Theodore C. Hsu  
President  
Horizon Services Corporation  
Hartford, CT

### **REGION VI**

Ms. Betty P. Chao  
President  
WESTECH International, Inc.  
Albuquerque, NM

### **REGION II**

Mr. Jose M. Garcia  
President  
Action Service Corporation  
San Juan, PR

### **\*REGION VII (TIE)**

Mr. Michael Zambrana President Pangea Group, Inc. St. Louis, MO	Ms. Connie S. Cook President Environmental Mgmt. Resources, Inc. Kansas City, MO
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### **REGION III**

Ms. Dona A.P. Storey  
President  
Quality Technical Services, Inc.  
Virginia Beach, VA

### **REGION VIII**

Mr. Wendel P. Torres  
President  
Alliance General Contractors, LLC  
Colorado Springs, CO

### **REGION IV**

Mr. Jose J. Sosa  
President  
J.J. Sosa & Associates, Inc.  
Tampa, FL

### **REGION IX**

Mr. Keith Odister  
President  
K.O.O. Construction, Inc.  
W. Sacramento, CA

### **REGION V**

Mr. David C. Woods  
President  
Bertram Electric Company

### **REGION X**

Mr. Rocky M. Wens  
President  
Engineering Support Personnel, Inc.

Indianapolis, IN

Lynnwood, WA

For more information, contact the MED Week 2002 office at 1-877-MEDWEEK or visit the Web site at [www.medweek.gov](http://www.medweek.gov).

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available at SBA's Web site: [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or by calling the SBA's Answer Desk at **1-800 U ASK SBA**.*

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